

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 L-03 NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15

DRC-01 /121 W

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R 251400Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5484

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECRP, EFIN, MT

SUBJ: GROWING LABOR UNREST

REF: VALLETTA 0520

1. MANY LOCAL FIRMS HAVE FOLLOWED GOM EXAMPLE AND GRANTED 1.50 POUND WEEKLY WAGE INCREASES, INCLUDING MAJOR U.S. FIRMS BULE BELL, GIE, HILTON AND BRITISH SERVICES, BUT OTHERS, PARTICULARLY THOSE SUFFERING PROFIT SQUEEZE AS RESULT RISING COSTS, HAVEREFUSED. AS A RESULT, MALTA HAS BEEN UNDERGOING A SPAT OF WILDCAT STRIKES BY WORKERS DEMANDING SIMILAR INCREASES, AND THERBY PUTTING PRESSURE ON GENERAL WORKERS UNION.

2. THE SOFT DRINK MANUFACTURERS, WHO SELL UNDER GOM IMPOSED PRICE CEILINGS, WERE UNABLE TO ACCEDE TO WAGE CLAIMS UNTIL GOM'S RECENT DECISION TO PERMIT A TWO U.S. CENT PER BOTTLE INCREASE.

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3. SOME OF THE LARGER TEXTILE AND SPINNING FIRMS, SUCH AS

PLESSEY AND THE PARTLY U.S. OWNED PHOENIX. HAVE YET
TO SETTLE THEIR DIFFICULTIES, AND IN THE CASE OF
THE LATTER, THE GWU HAS HAD TO WARN THE WORKERS NOT TO
DO ANYTHING TO ENDANGER A SETTLEMENT AND TO IGNORE SOME
OF THEIR COLLEAGUES "WHO ALWAYS WANTED THE FACTORY
WORKERS OUT OF THE GWU." AT PLESSEY ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS
MOST OF THOSE ON STRIKE HAVE ALREADY RESIGNED FROM THE GWU.

4. COMMENT: WHILE CURRENT UNOFFICIAL STRIKES AND WORK
SLOW DOWNS ARE DISTURBING TO GWU AND THE FIRMS CONCERNED,
THE MAJORITY OF THE ORGANIZED WORK FORCE HAVE OR
EVENTUALLY WILL GET WAGE INCREASES SIMILAR TO GOM
EMPLOYEES.GETZ

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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